REQUEST FOR EARLY EFFECTIVE DATE

AMENDMENTS TO THE LOW CARBON FUEL STANDARD REGULATION CARBON INTENSITY LOOKUP TABLES

Pursuant to Government Code section 11343.4(c), the Air Resources Board (ARB) requests that amendments to section 95486 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State. Good cause for this request exists.

The Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) was adopted by ARB pursuant to its authority under AB 32. It promotes reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuels used in California by an average of 10 percent by the year 2020. Carbon intensity is a measure of the GHG emissions associated with the combination of all of the steps in the "lifecycle" of a transportation fuel. Section 95486 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations sets forth the methodology for determination of carbon intensity values of various fuel pathways. The amendments to section 95486 modified the LCFS carbon intensity Lookup Tables through the adoption of 28 additional fuel pathways that were either developed by ARB staff or developed by fuel providers and then evaluated by ARB staff.

Under the LCFS regulation, all regulated parties are instructed to show compliance with the carbon intensity reduction and credit balancing requirement on an annual basis. Once a fuel or blendstock carbon intensity value is approved, the carbon intensity value may be used by an appropriate regulated party in calculating the overall carbon intensity for its fuel pool. Thus, the addition of modified or new fuel pathways in the Lookup Tables will provide regulated parties with additional options from which to choose an appropriate mix of fuels and blendstocks to meet the LCFS' annual carbon intensity standards. As such, these amendments need to become effective as soon as possible to fulfill the intent of the enabling law and to enable regulated parties to have as many options available as possible.

The ARB will promptly notify affected parties of the effective date as soon as the amendments are filed with the Secretary of State. Furthermore, because only the carbon intensity Lookup Table amendments only make additional carbon intensity values available for use by regulated parties, the early effective date would not create a burden on regulated parties.

Date: January 17, 2012

Diana Jeschke Staff Counsel